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SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Series: The Path to the Cross

Message: The Path of True Value (John 12:1-19)

Opening Reflection

1. In the sermon, we discussed the "Crisis of Value." What is one thing in your life that you find very difficult to "sacrifice" or give up control over?
2. Why do we often prefer a "safe" or "convenient" faith over a "sacrificial" one?

Deep Dive: The Three Valuations

The Standard of Mary (Sacrificial Worship)

- **Read John 12:1-3 and Matthew 16:24.** Mary's gift was worth an entire year's salary. Why do you think she felt that *this* specific moment was the right time to "break the jar"?
- **Discussion:** How does Mary's act of wiping Jesus' feet with her hair redefine what "status" and "glory" look like for a believer?

The Danger of Judas (Hypocritical Calculation)

- **Read John 12:4-6.** * Judas used a "good cause" (helping the poor) to mask his own greed. Have you ever caught yourself using "practical" or "spiritual" excuses to avoid doing something you knew God was calling you to do?
- **Discussion:** What are some common "masks" we wear in the church today to hide a heart that is actually seeking its own comfort or security?



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The Choice of the Crowd (The Final Verdict)

- **Read John 12:9–11 and 12:17–19.**
- The religious leaders wanted to kill Lazarus because he was "living proof" of Jesus' power. Why is "living proof" so threatening to people who want to stay in control?
- **Discussion:** Verse 19 says, *"the world is gone after him."* What does it look like in our modern culture to "go after Him" when the "status quo" is headed in the opposite direction?

Personal Application: Breaking the Jar

- **The "Bag" vs. The "Jar":** Judas clutched his bag; Mary broke her jar. Which one describes your spiritual life right now? Are you protecting your resources/reputation, or are you pouring them out?
- **A Fragrant Life:** When Mary broke the jar, the *entire house* was filled with the fragrance. Who in your life (family, co-workers, neighbors) would be impacted if you began to live more sacrificially for Christ?

Prayer Focus

- **Confession:** Ask God to forgive us for the times we have "calculated" our worship or offered Him only what was "left over."
- **Surrender:** Identify one "jar" (a specific area of life) you are holding back. Pray for the courage to "break it" and offer it to Jesus this week.
- **Intercession:** Pray for those in our community who are seeing the "living proof" of Christ but are still sitting on the fence.



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